THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme

†5. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the present Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme, being not on the basis of the farmer's personal crop and land holdings, is not proving practical;

(b) if so, the details of the insurance claims settled so far;

(c) whether there is in any scheme under consideration to introduce the Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme on personal basis;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to take any other corrective step to make the Agriculture Crops Insurance Scheme more comprehensive and multidimensional; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) which are at present, under operation, are mainly area based schemes and loss assessment is made at the level of notified unit area of insurance and not on individual farm/farmer basis.

The schemes are proving beneficial to farmers. During the last 17 crop seasons (1999-2000 to 2007-08) claims amounting to Rs. 10600 crore approx. have been paid under NAIS. Similarly, under Pilot WBCIS claims amounting to Rs. 107.43 crore are paid during Kharif 2007 and Rabi 2007-08.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted by the Government for the improvements of existing scheme *i.e.* NAIS, a proposal on Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) comprising reducing the unit area of insurance; improved method of calculation of threshold yield; higher level of indemnity; coverage of additional risks etc. is under consideration of the Government of India.

Utilization of manpower of farmers

†6. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country do not get work for most of the period of the year as a result of which the manpower of the country could not be utilized;

(b) whether Government has conducted or propose to conduct any study in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question we received in Hindi.